

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An insulated article comprising:
a first wall bounding an interior volume;
a second wall spaced at a distance from the first wall to define an insulating space
therebetween, the first and second walls provided by first and second tubes substantially concentric with each other, the first and second tubes being elongated and flexible; and
a vent communicating with the insulating space to provide an exit pathway for gas molecules from the space, the vent being sealable for maintaining a vacuum within the insulating space following evacuation of gas molecules through the vent,
the distance between the first and second walls being variable in a portion of the insulating space adjacent the vent such that gas molecules within the insulating space are directed towards the vent by the variable-distance portion of the first and second walls during the evacuation of the insulating space, the directing of the gas molecules by the variable-distance portion of the first and second walls imparting to the gas molecules a greater probability of egress from the insulating space than ingress thereby providing a deeper vacuum without requiring a getter material within the insulating space.
2. (Original) The insulated article according to claim 1, wherein one of the walls includes a portion that converges toward the other wall adjacent the vent, and wherein the distance between the walls is at a minimum adjacent the location at which the vent communicates with the insulating space.
3. (Canceled) The insulated article according to claim 1, wherein the first and second walls are provided by first and second tubes arranged substantially concentrically to define an annular space therebetween.

4. (Currently amended) The insulated article according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein the converging wall portion of the one of the walls is located adjacent an end of the associated tube.

5. (Currently amended) The insulated article according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein the wall including the converging portion is provided by an outer one of the tubes.

6. (Original) The insulated article according to claim 1 further comprising a coating disposed on a surface of the one of the walls, the coating formed by a material having an emissivity that is less than that of the wall on which it is disposed.

7. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The insulated article comprising: according to claim 3
a first wall bounding an interior volume;
a second wall spaced at a distance from the first wall to define an insulating space
therebetween, the first and second walls provided by first and second tubes arranged substantially
concentrically; and
a vent communicating with the insulating space to provide an exit pathway for gas
molecules from the space, the vent being sealable for maintaining a vacuum within the insulating
space following evacuation of gas molecules through the vent,
the distance between the first and second walls being variable in a portion of the
insulating space adjacent the vent such that gas molecules within the insulating space are directed
towards the vent by the variable-distance portion of the first and second walls during the
evacuation of the insulating space, the directing of the gas molecules by the variable-distance
portion of the first and second walls imparting to the gas molecules a greater probability of egress
from the insulating space than ingress thereby providing a deeper vacuum without requiring a
getter material within the insulating space,

wherein the first and second tubes are flexible, the article further comprising a layer disposed between the first and second tubes having relatively low thermal conductivity compared to the first and second tubes to limit thermal shorting caused by direct contact between the first and second tubes.

8. (Original) The insulated article according to claim 7, wherein the layer comprises a winding of yarn.

9. (Withdrawn) The insulated article according to claim 1 ~~3~~ further comprising:
a third tube located within the first and second tubes and arranged substantially concentric thereto to define an annular inlet for a gas; and
a semi-spherical end cap secured to one of the first and second tube adjacent an end of the third tube, the end cap defining a chamber for expansion of the gas received in the chamber from the gas inlet.

Claims 10-18 (Canceled).

19. (New) An insulated article comprising:
a first tube bounding an interior volume;
a second tube arranged concentrically with the first tube to define an annular insulating space between the first and second tubes;
a vent communicating with the insulating space to provide an exit pathway for gas molecules from the space, the vent being sealable for maintaining a vacuum within the insulating space following evacuation of gas molecules through the vent; and
a layer disposed between the first and second tubes having relatively low thermal conductivity compared to the first and second tubes to limit thermal shorting caused by direct contact between the first and second tubes.

20. (New) The insulated article according to claim 19, wherein the layer comprises yarn.

21. (New) The insulated article according to claim 19, wherein a distance between the first and second tubes is variable adjacent the vent.